

## Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 /066 W  
----- 075223

R 301355Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9157

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

USDEL MC BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12334

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: INFRASTRUCTURE CEILING AUGMENTATION

REF: (A) STATE 18343, DTG 232351Z JUL 76 (B) ROME 14597,  
DTG 081753Z OCT 75 NOTAL

1. THE EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION TO APPROACHING THE  
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ITALIANS TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR INCREASING INFRASTRUCTURE CEIL-

ING. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE EXPECT THAT GOI TO REACT POSITIVELY. INDEED APART FROM THE GOI RAISING THE INEVITABLE BUDGETARY ARGUMENT, THERE ARE OTHER OBSTACLES TO ELICITING OTHER THAN A NEGATIVE RESPONSE. THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, IN WHICH REF A SUGGESTS THESE BILATERALS BE MADE, IS NOT LIKELY TO FIND A STRONG AND STABLE GOVERNMENT AT THE HELM IN ROME -- NOT THE BEST ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO ASK THE GOI TO MAKE COMMITMENTS THAT WILL COST MONEY AND REQUIRE THE EXERCISE OF POLITICAL WILL ON AN ISSUE NOT RELATED DIRECTLY TO ITS IMMEDIATE DOMESTIC CONCERNS. MOREOVER, BOTH THE MOD AND THE MFA HAVE A SOMEWHAT JAUNDICED VIEW OF OUR INITIATIVES IN THE AREA OF INFRASTRUCTURE, BELIEVING THAT THE U.S. (AND THE ALLIANCE MORE GENERALLY) HAS FAILED TO SUPPORT THE INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS (AS IDENTIFIED BY THE MOD) OF THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES (REF B NOTAL).

2. ALTHOUGH WE CAN EXPECT A DEFINITE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FROM THE ITALIANS TOWARD OUR PROPOSITION, WE FAVOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE WITH THEM AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE: THE ITALIANS LIKE TO BE TREATED AS A MAJOR ALLY AND IN OUR VIEW SHOULD SO BE TREATED, BUT THE TREATMENT OUGHT TO BE COMPREHENSIVE AND INCLUDE THE EXPECTATION (REALIZABLE OR NOT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES) THAT THEY WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO (OR AT LEAST BE MADE AWARE OF) THE OBLIGATIONS ENTAILED. EVEN IN THE AMBIGUOUS SITUATION LIKELY TO PREVAIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER, IT WOULD BE USEFUL, IN OUR VIEW, TO TAKE THIS INITIATIVE WITH THE GOI'S MINISTERIAL BUREAUCRACIES WHO NEED OCCASIONALLY TO BE REMINDED THAT IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE YOU HAVE TO PAY THE DUES. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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